

Fill in this information to identify your case:

United States Bankruptcy Court for the:

Northern District of: Illinois
(State)

Case number (if known) _____

Chapter you are filing under:

- ☐ Chapter 7
☐ Chapter 11
☐ Chapter 12
☒ Chapter 13

☐ Check if this is an amended filing

Official Form 101

Voluntary Petition for Individuals Filing for Bankruptcy

12/17

The bankruptcy forms use *you* and *Debtor 1* to refer to a debtor filing alone. A married couple may file a bankruptcy case together—called a *joint case*—and in joint cases, these forms use *you* to ask for information from both debtors. For example, if a form asks, "Do you own a car," the answer would be yes if either debtor owns a car. When information is needed about the spouses separately, the form uses *Debtor 1* and *Debtor 2* to distinguish between them. In joint cases, one of the spouses must report information as *Debtor 1* and the other as *Debtor 2*. The same person must be *Debtor 1* in all of the forms.

Be as complete and accurate as possible. If two married people are filing together, both are equally responsible for supplying correct information. If more space is needed, attach a separate sheet to this form. On the top of any additional pages, write your name and case number (if known). Answer every question.

Part 1: Identify Yourself

	About Debtor 1:	About Debtor 2 (Spouse Only in a Joint Case):
1. Your full name Write the name that is on your government-issued picture identification (for example, your driver's license or passport) Bring your picture identification to your meeting with the trustee.	<u>Kierra</u> First name _____ Middle name <u>Brown</u> Last name _____ Suffix (Sr., Jr., II, III)	_____ First name _____ Middle name _____ Last name _____ Suffix (Sr., Jr., II, III)
2. All other names you have used in the last 8 years Include your married or maiden names.	_____ First name _____ Middle name _____ Last name _____ First name _____ Middle name _____ Last name	_____ First name _____ Middle name _____ Last name _____ First name _____ Middle name _____ Last name
3. Only the last 4 digits of your Social Security number or federal Individual Taxpayer Identification number (ITIN)	XXX - XX- <u>4874</u> OR 9 XX - XX- _____	XXX - XX- _____ OR 9 XX - XX- _____

Debtor 1 Kierra Brown Case number (if known)
 First Name Middle Name Last Name

About Debtor 1:

About Debtor 2 (Spouse Only in a Joint Case):

4. Any business names and Employer Identification Numbers (EIN) you have used in the last 8 years

Include trade names and doing business as names

☒ I have not used any business names or EINs.

Business name

Business name

EIN

EIN

☐ I have not used any business names or EINs.

Business name

Business name

EIN

EIN

5. Where you live

11156 S. Homewood Ave.

Number Street

Chicago

Illinois

60643

City

State

Zip Code

Cook

County

If your mailing address is different from the one above, fill it in here. Note that the court will send any notices to you at this mailing address.

Number Street

City

State

Zip Code

If Debtor 2 lives at a different address:

Number Street

City

State

Zip Code

County

If Debtor 2's mailing address is different from yours, fill it in here. Note that the court will send any notices to this mailing address.

Number Street

City

State

Zip Code

6. Why you are choosing this district to file for bankruptcy

Check one:

☒ Over the last 180 days before filing this petition, I have lived in this district longer than in any other district.

☐ I have another reason. Explain. (See 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408.)

Check one:

☐ Over the last 180 days before filing this petition, I have lived in this district longer than in any other district.

☐ I have another reason. Explain. (See 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408.)

Debtor 1 Kierra Brown Case number (if known)
 First Name Middle Name Last Name

Part 2: Tell the Court About Your Bankruptcy Case

7. The chapter of the Bankruptcy Code you are choosing to file under *Check one. (For a brief description of each, see Notice Required by 11 U.S.C. § 342(b) for Individuals Filing for Bankruptcy (Form B2010)). Also, go to the top of page 1 and check the appropriate box.*

☐ Chapter 7
☐ Chapter 11
☐ Chapter 12
☒ Chapter 13

8. How you will pay the fee

☒ **I will pay the entire fee when I file my petition.** Please check with the clerk's office in your local court for more details about how you may pay. Typically, if you are paying the fee yourself, you may pay with cash, cashier's check, or money order. If your attorney is submitting your payment on your behalf, your attorney may pay with a credit card or check with a pre-printed address.

☐ **I need to pay the fee in installments.** If you choose this option, sign and attach the *Application for Individuals to Pay Your Filing Fee in Installments* (Official Form 103A).

☐ **I request that my fee be waived** (You may request this option only if you are filing for Chapter 7. By law, a judge may, but is not required to, waive your fee, and may do so only if your income is less than 150% of the official poverty line that applies to your family size and you are unable to pay the fee in installments). If you choose this option, you must fill out the *Application to Have the Chapter 7 Filing Fee Waived* (Official Form 103B) and file it with your petition.

9. Have you filed for bankruptcy within the last 8 years?

☒ No.

☐ Yes. District _____ When _____ Case number _____
 MM / DD / YYYY
 District _____ When _____ Case number _____
 MM / DD / YYYY
 District _____ When _____ Case number _____
 MM / DD / YYYY

10. Are any bankruptcy cases pending or being filed by a spouse who is not filing this case with you, or by a business partner, or by an affiliate?

☒ No.

☐ Yes. Debtor _____ Relationship to you _____
 District _____ When _____ Case number, if known _____
 MM / DD / YYYY
 Debtor _____ Relationship to you _____
 District _____ When _____ Case number, if known _____
 MM / DD / YYYY

11. Do you rent your residence?

☒ No. Go to line 12.

☐ Yes. Has your landlord obtained an eviction judgment against you?

☒ No. Go to line 12.

☐ Yes. Fill out *Initial Statement About an Eviction Judgment Against You* (Form 101A) and file it with this bankruptcy petition.

Debtor 1 Kierra Brown Case number (if known)
 First Name Middle Name Last Name

Part 3: Report About Any Businesses You Own as a Sole Proprietor

12. Are you a sole proprietor of any full- or part-time business?

- ☒ No. Go to Part 4.
☐ Yes. Name and location of business

A sole proprietorship is a business you operate as an individual, and is not a separate legal entity such as a corporation, partnership, or LLC.

If you have more than one sole proprietorship, use a separate sheet and attach it to this petition.

Name of business, if any

Number Street

City State Zip Code

Check the appropriate box to describe your business:

- ☐ Health Care Business (as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(27A))
☐ Single Asset Real Estate (as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(51B))
☐ Stockbroker (as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(53A))
☐ Commodity Broker (as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(6))
☐ None of the above

13. Are you filing under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code and are you a small business debtor?

If you are filing under Chapter 11, the court must know whether you are a small business debtor so that it can set appropriate deadlines. If you indicate that you are a small business debtor, you must attach your most recent balance sheet, statement of operations, cash-flow statement, and federal income tax return or if any of these documents do not exist, follow the procedure in 11 U.S.C. § 11 16(1)(B).

For a definition of small business debtor, see 11 U.S.C. § 101(51D).

- ☒ No. I am not filing under Chapter 11.
☐ No. I am filing under Chapter 11, but I am NOT a small business debtor according to the Bankruptcy Code.
☐ Yes. I am filing under Chapter 11 and I am a small business debtor according to the definition in the Bankruptcy Code.

Part 4: Report if You Own or Have Any Hazardous Property or Any Property That Needs Immediate Attention

14. Do you own or have any property that poses or is alleged to pose a threat of imminent and identifiable hazard to public health or safety? Or do you own any property that needs immediate attention?

- ☒ No.
☐ Yes. What is the hazard?

If immediate attention is needed, why is it needed?

Where is the property?

Number Street

City State Zip Code

For example, do you own perishable goods, or livestock that must be fed, or a building that needs urgent repairs?

Debtor 1 Kierra
First Name

Brown
Middle Name

Brown
Last Name

Case number (if known)

Part 5: Explain Your Efforts to Receive a Briefing About Credit Counseling

About Debtor 1:

You must check one:

☒ **I received a briefing from an approved credit counseling agency within the 180 days before I filed this bankruptcy petition, and I received a certificate of completion.**

Attach a copy of the certificate and the payment plan, if any, that you developed with the agency.

☐ **I received a briefing from an approved credit counseling agency within the 180 days before I filed this bankruptcy petition, but I do not have a certificate of completion.**

Within 14 days after you file this bankruptcy petition, you MUST file a copy of the certificate and payment plan, if any.

☐ **I certify that I asked for credit counseling services from an approved agency, but was unable to obtain those services during the 7 days after I made my request, and exigent circumstances merit a 30-day temporary waiver of the requirement.**

To ask for a 30-day temporary waiver of the requirement, attach a separate sheet explaining what efforts you made to obtain the briefing, why you were unable to obtain it before you filed for bankruptcy, and what exigent circumstances required you to file this case.

Your case may be dismissed if the court is dissatisfied with your reasons for not receiving a briefing before you filed for bankruptcy.

If the court is satisfied with your reasons, you must still receive a briefing within 30 days after you file. You must file a certificate from the approved agency, along with a copy of the payment plan you developed, if any. If you do not do so, your case may be dismissed.

Any extension of the 30-day deadline is granted only for cause and is limited to a maximum of 15 days.

☐ **I am not required to receive a briefing about credit counseling because of:**

☐ **Incapacity.** I have a mental illness or a mental deficiency that makes me incapable of realizing or making rational decisions about finances.

☐ **Disability.** My physical disability causes me to be unable to participate in a briefing in person, by phone, or through the internet, even after I reasonably tried to do so.

☐ **Active duty.** I am currently on active military duty in a military combat zone.

If you believe you are not required to receive a briefing about credit counseling, you must file a motion for waiver of credit counseling with the court.

About Debtor 2 (Spouse Only in a Joint Case):

You must check one:

☐ **I received a briefing from an approved credit counseling agency within the 180 days before I filed this bankruptcy petition, and I received a certificate of completion.**

Attach a copy of the certificate and the payment plan, if any, that you developed with the agency.

☐ **I received a briefing from an approved credit counseling agency within the 180 days before I filed this bankruptcy petition, but I do not have a certificate of completion.**

Within 14 days after you file this bankruptcy petition, you MUST file a copy of the certificate and payment plan, if any.

☐ **I certify that I asked for credit counseling services from an approved agency, but was unable to obtain those services during the 7 days after I made my request, and exigent circumstances merit a 30-day temporary waiver of the requirement.**

To ask for a 30-day temporary waiver of the requirement, attach a separate sheet explaining what efforts you made to obtain the briefing, why you were unable to obtain it before you filed for bankruptcy, and what exigent circumstances required you to file this case.

Your case may be dismissed if the court is dissatisfied with your reasons for not receiving a briefing before you filed for bankruptcy.

If the court is satisfied with your reasons, you must still receive a briefing within 30 days after you file. You must file a certificate from the approved agency, along with a copy of the payment plan you developed, if any. If you do not do so, your case may be dismissed.

Any extension of the 30-day deadline is granted only for cause and is limited to a maximum of 15 days.

☐ **I am not required to receive a briefing about credit counseling because of:**

☐ **Incapacity.** I have a mental illness or a mental deficiency that makes me incapable of realizing or making rational decisions about finances.

☐ **Disability.** My physical disability causes me to be unable to participate in a briefing in person, by phone, or through the internet, even after I reasonably tried to do so.

☐ **Active duty.** I am currently on active military duty in a military combat zone.

If you believe you are not required to receive a briefing about credit counseling, you must file a motion for waiver of credit counseling with the court.

Debtor 1 Kierra Brown Case number (if known)
 First Name Middle Name Last Name

Part 6: Answer These Questions for Reporting Purposes

16. What kind of debts do you have?

16a. Are your debts primarily consumer debts? *Consumer debts* are defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(8) as "incurred by an individual primarily for a personal, family, or household purpose."

☐ No. Go to line 16b.
☒ Yes. Go to line 17.

16b. Are your debts primarily business debts? *Business debts* are debts that you incurred to obtain money for a business or investment or through the operation of the business or investment.

☐ No. Go to line 16c.
☐ Yes. Go to line 17.

16c. State the type of debts you owe that are not consumer debts or business debts.

17. Are you filing under Chapter 7?
Do you estimate that after any exempt property is excluded and administrative expenses are paid that funds will be available for distribution to unsecured creditors?

☒ No. I am not filing under Chapter 7. Go to line 18.
☐ Yes. I am filing under Chapter 7. Do you estimate that after any exempt property is excluded and administrative expenses are paid that funds will be available to distribute to unsecured creditors?

☐ No.
☐ Yes.

18. How many creditors do you estimate that you owe?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1-49	<input type="checkbox"/> 1,000-5,000	<input type="checkbox"/> 25,001-50,000
<input type="checkbox"/> 50-99	<input type="checkbox"/> 5,001-10,000	<input type="checkbox"/> 50,001-100,000
<input type="checkbox"/> 100-199	<input type="checkbox"/> 10,001-25,000	<input type="checkbox"/> More than 100,000
<input type="checkbox"/> 200-999		

19. How much do you estimate your assets to be worth?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$0-\$50,000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000,001-\$10 million	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500,000,001-\$1 billion
<input type="checkbox"/> \$50,001-\$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000,001-\$50 million	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000,000,001-\$10 billion
<input type="checkbox"/> \$100,001-\$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50,000,001-\$100 million	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000,000,001-\$50 billion
<input type="checkbox"/> \$500,001-\$1 million	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100,000,001-\$500 million	<input type="checkbox"/> More than \$50 billion

20. How much do you estimate your liabilities to be?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$0-\$50,000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000,001-\$10 million	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500,000,001-\$1 billion
<input type="checkbox"/> \$50,001-\$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000,001-\$50 million	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000,000,001-\$10 billion
<input type="checkbox"/> \$100,001-\$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50,000,001-\$100 million	<input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000,000,001-\$50 billion
<input type="checkbox"/> \$500,001-\$1 million	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100,000,001-\$500 million	<input type="checkbox"/> More than \$50 billion

Part 7: Sign Below

For you

I have examined this petition, and I declare under penalty of perjury that the information provided is true and correct.

If I have chosen to file under Chapter 7, I am aware that I may proceed, if eligible, under Chapter 7, 11, 12, or 13 of title 11, United States Code. I understand the relief available under each chapter, and I choose to proceed under Chapter 7.

If no attorney represents me and I did not pay or agree to pay someone who is not an attorney to help me fill out this document, I have obtained and read the notice required by 11 U.S.C. § 342(b).

I request relief in accordance with the chapter of title 11, United States Code, specified in this petition.

I understand making a false statement, concealing property, or obtaining money or property by fraud in connection with a bankruptcy case can result in fines up to \$250,000, or imprisonment for up to 20 years, or both. 18 U.S.C. §§ 152, 1341, 1519, and 3571.

X /s/ Kierra Brown
 Signature of Debtor 1

X _____
 Signature of Debtor 2

Executed on 4/10/2018
 MM / DD / YYYY

Executed on _____
 MM / DD / YYYY

Debtor 1 Kierra _____ Brown _____ Case number (if known) _____
First Name Middle Name Last Name

For your attorney, if you are represented by one

If you are not represented by an attorney, you do not need to file this page.

I, the attorney for the debtor(s) named in this petition, declare that I have informed the debtor(s) about eligibility to proceed under Chapter 7, 11, 12, or 13 of title 11, United States Code, and have explained the relief available under each chapter for which the person is eligible. I also certify that I have delivered to the debtor(s) the notice required by 11 U.S.C. § 342(b) and, in a case in which § 707(b)(4)(D) applies, certify that I have no knowledge after an inquiry that the information in the schedules filed with the petition is incorrect.

X

/s/ Alicia Haro

Date

4/10/2018

Signature of Attorney for Debtor

MM / DD / YYYY

Alicia Haro

Printed name

Semrad Law Firm

Firm name

11101 S. Western Avenue

Street

Chicago

Illinois

60643

City

State

Zip Code

Contact phone

Email address

aharo@semradlaw.com

Bar number

Illinois

State

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AGREEMENT BETWEEN
CHAPTER 13 DEBTORS AND THEIR ATTORNEYS

(Court-Approved Retention Agreement, Use for cases filed on or after September 19, 2016)

Chapter 13 gives debtors important rights, such as the right to keep property that could otherwise be lost through repossession or foreclosure, but Chapter 13 also puts burdens on debtors, such as the burden of making complete and truthful disclosures of their financial situation. It is important for debtors who file a Chapter 13 bankruptcy case to understand their rights and responsibilities in bankruptcy. In this connection, the advice of an attorney is often crucial. Debtors are entitled to certain services from their attorneys, but debtors also have responsibilities to their attorneys. In order to assure that debtors and their attorneys understand their rights and responsibilities in the Chapter 13 process, the judges of the Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Illinois have approved this agreement, setting out the rights and responsibilities of both debtors in Chapter 13 and their attorneys, including how their attorneys will be paid for their services in the Chapter 13 case. By signing this agreement, debtors and their attorneys accept these responsibilities.

The Bankruptcy Code may require a debtor's attorney to provide the debtor with certain documents and agreements at the start of the representation. The terms of this court-approved agreement take the place of any conflicting provision in an earlier agreement. This agreement cannot be modified in any way by other agreements. Any provision of another agreement between the debtors and the attorney that conflicts with this agreement is void.

A. BEFORE THE CASE IS FILED

THE DEBTOR AGREES TO:

1. Discuss with the attorney the debtor's objectives in filing the case.
2. Provide the attorney with full, accurate and timely information, financial and otherwise, including properly documented proof of income.

THE ATTORNEY AGREES TO:

1. Personally counsel the debtor regarding the advisability of filing either a Chapter 13 or a Chapter 7 case, discuss both procedures (as well as non-bankruptcy options) with the debtor, and answer the debtor's questions.
2. Personally explain to the debtor that the attorney is being engaged to represent the debtor on all matters arising in the case, as required by Local Bankruptcy Rule and explain how and when the attorney's fees and the trustee's fees are determined and paid.
3. Personally review with the debtor and sign the completed petition, plan, statements, and schedules, as well as all amendments thereto, whether filed with the petition or later. (The schedules may be initially prepared with the help of clerical or paralegal staff of the attorney's office, but personal attention of the attorney is required for the review and signing.)
4. Timely prepare and file the debtor's petition, plan, statements, and schedules.
5. Explain to the debtor how, when, and where to make all necessary payments, including both payments that must be made directly to creditors and payments that must be made to the Chapter 13 trustee, with particular attention to housing and vehicle payments.

6. Advise the debtor of the need to maintain appropriate insurance.

B. AFTER THE CASE IS FILED

THE DEBTOR AGREES TO:

1. Make the required payments to the trustee and to whatever creditors are being paid directly, or, if required payments cannot be made, to notify the attorney immediately.
2. Appear punctually at the meeting of creditors (also called the "341 meeting") with recent proof of income and a picture identification card. (If the identification card does not include the debtor's social security number, the debtor must also bring to the meeting a social security card.) The debtor must be present in time for check-in and, when the case is called, for the actual examination.
3. Notify the attorney of any change in the debtor's address or telephone number.
4. Inform the attorney of any wage garnishments or liens or levies on assets that occur or continue after the filing of the case.
5. Contact the attorney immediately if the debtor loses employment, has a significant change in income, or experiences any other significant change in financial situation (such as serious illness, marriage, divorce or separation, lottery winnings, or an inheritance).
6. Notify the attorney if the debtor is sued or wishes to file a lawsuit (including divorce.)
7. Inform the attorney if any tax refunds to which the debtor is entitled are seized or not received when due from the IRS or Illinois Department of Revenue.
8. Contact the attorney before buying, refinancing, or selling real property, and before entering into any loan agreement.
9. Supply the attorney with copies of all tax returns filed while the case is pending.

THE ATTORNEY AGREES TO:

1. Advise the debtor of the requirement to attend the meeting of creditors, and notify the debtor of the date, time, and place of the meeting.
2. Inform the debtor that the debtor must be punctual and, in the case of a joint filing, that both spouses must appear at the same meeting.
3. Provide knowledgeable legal representation for the debtor at the meeting of creditors (in time for check-in and the actual examination) and, unless excused by the trustee, for the confirmation hearing.

4. If the attorney will be employing another attorney to attend the 341 meeting or any court hearing, personally explain to the debtor in advance, the role and identity of the other attorney and provide the other attorney with the file in sufficient time to review it and properly represent the debtor.
5. Timely submit to the Chapter 13 trustee properly documented proof of income for the debtor, including business reports for self-employed debtors.
6. Timely respond to objections to plan confirmation and, where necessary, prepare, file, and serve an amended plan.
7. Timely prepare, file, and serve any necessary statements, amended statements, and schedules and any change of address, in accordance with information provided by the debtor.
8. Monitor all incoming case information (including, but not limited to, Order Confirming Plan, Notice of Intent to Pay Claims, and 6-month status reports) for accuracy and completeness. Contact the trustee promptly regarding any discrepancies.
9. Be available to respond to the debtor's questions throughout the term of the plan.
10. Prepare, file, and serve timely modifications to the plan after confirmation, when necessary, including modifications to suspend, lower, or increase plan payments.
11. Prepare, file, and serve necessary motions to buy or sell property and to incur debt.
12. Object to improper or invalid claims.
13. Timely respond to the Chapter 13 trustee's motions to dismiss the case, such as for payment default, or unfeasibility, and to motions to increase the percentage payment to unsecured creditors.
14. Timely respond to motions for relief from stay.
15. Prepare, file, and serve all appropriate motions to avoid liens.
16. Prepare, file, and serve a notice of conversion to Chapter 7, pursuant to § 1307(a) of the Bankruptcy Code and Local Bankruptcy Rule 1017-1.
17. Provide any other legal services necessary for the administration of the case.

C. TERMINATION OR CONVERSION OF THE CASE AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER APPROVING FEES AND EXPENSES

1. Approved fees and expenses paid under the provisions set out below are generally not refundable in the event that the case is dismissed prior to its completion, unless the dismissal is due to a failure by the attorney to comply with the duties set out in this agreement. If such a dismissal is due to a failure by the attorney, the court may order a refund of fees on motion by the debtor.
2. If the case is dismissed after approval of the fees and expenses but before payment of all allowed fees and expenses, the order entered by the Bankruptcy Court allowing the fees and expenses is not a judgment against the debtor for the unpaid fees and expenses based on contract law or otherwise.
3. If the case is converted to a case under Chapter 7 after approval of the fees and expenses under this agreement but before the payment of all fees and expenses, the attorney will be entitled to an administrative claim in the Chapter 7 case for any unpaid fees and expenses, pursuant to § 726(b) of the Bankruptcy Code, plus any conversion fee the attorney pays on behalf of the debtor.

D. RETAINERS AND PREVIOUS PAYMENTS

1. The attorney may receive a retainer or other payment before filing the case but may not receive fees directly from the debtor after the filing of the case. Unless the following provision is checked and completed, any retainer received by the attorney will be treated as a security retainer, to be placed in the attorney's client trust account until approval of a fee application by the court.



The attorney seeks to have the retainer received by the attorney treated as an advance payment retainer, which allows the attorney to take the retainer into income immediately. The attorney hereby provides the following further information and representations:

- (a) The special purpose for the advance payment retainer and why it is advantageous to the debtor is as follows:
Client understands that any funds that client is rendering to The Semrad Law Firm, LLC as part of the advance payment retainer shall immediately become the property of The Semrad Law Firm, LLC in exchange for a commitment by The Semrad Law Firm, LLC to provide the legal services described above. Said funds will be deposited into the main bank account owned by The Semrad Law Firm, LLC and will be used for general expense of the firm. Client further understands that it is ordinarily the client's option to deposit funds with an attorney that shall remain client's property as security for future services. However, The Semrad Law Firm, LLC does not represent clients under such a security retainer because the preparation of a bankruptcy cases requires many disparate tasks and functions for the attorney and support staff; some of which require legal expertise while other may be only ministerial in nature. Client further understands that the benefit that client is receiving under the fee arrangement is the commitment of The Semrad Law Firm, LLC to perform any and all work reasonably necessary to represent client's interest absent any extraordinary circumstance.
- (b) The retainer will not be held in a client trust account and will become property of the attorney upon payment and will be deposited into the attorney's general account;
- (c) The retainer is a flat fee for the services to be rendered during the chapter 13 case and will be applied for such services without the need for the attorney to keep detailed hourly time records for the specific services performed for the debtor;
- (d) Any portion of the retainer that is not earned or required for expenses will be refunded to the client; and
- (e) The attorney is unwilling to represent the debtor without receiving an advanced payment retainer because of the nature of the chapter 13 case, the fact that the great majority of services for such case are performed prior to its filing, and the risks associated with the representation of debtors in bankruptcy cases in general.

2. In any application for compensation, the attorney must disclose to the court any fees or other compensation paid by the debtor to the attorney for any reason within the one year before the case filing, including the date(s) any such fees were paid.

E. CONDUCT AND DISCHARGE

1. *Improper conduct by the attorney.* If the debtor disputes the sufficiency or quality of the legal services provided or the amount of the fees charged by the attorney, the debtor may file an objection with the court and request a hearing.

2. *Improper conduct by the debtor.* If the attorney believes that the debtor is not complying with the debtor's responsibilities under this agreement or is otherwise engaging in improper conduct, the attorney may apply for a court order allowing the attorney to withdraw from the case.

3. *Discharge of the attorney.* The debtor may discharge the attorney at any time.

F. ALLOWANCE AND PAYMENT OF ATTORNEYS' FEES AND EXPENSES

1. Any attorney retained to represent a debtor in a Chapter 13 case is responsible for representing the debtor on all matters arising in the case unless otherwise ordered by the court. For all of the services outlined above, the attorney will be paid a flat fee of \$4,000.00
2. In addition, the debtor will pay the filing fee in the case and other expenses of \$371.76
3. Before signing this agreement, the attorney has received, \$0.00
toward the flat fee, leaving a balance due of \$4,000.00 ; and \$61.76 for expenses,
leaving a balance due of \$4,371.76
4. In extraordinary circumstances, such as extended evidentiary hearings or appeals, the attorney may apply to the court for additional compensation for these services. Any such application must be accompanied by an itemization of the services rendered, showing the date, the time expended, and the identity of the attorney performing the services. The debtor must be served with a copy of the application and notified of the right to appear in court to object.

Date: 4/10/2018

Signed:

/s/ Kierra Brown

Kierra Brown

Debtor(s)

/s/ Alicia Haro

Alicia Haro

Attorney for Debtor(s)

Do not sign if the fee amounts at top of this page are blank.

THE SEMRAD LAW FIRM

Attorneys & Counselors at Law
20 S. Clark, 28th Floor
Chicago, IL 60603
(312) 913-0625

Re: Agreement Regarding Priority Treatment of The Semrad Law Firm LLC's Fees and Expenses

Dear Client,

Thank you for choosing The Semrad Law Firm LLC (the Firm) to represent you in connection with your Chapter 13 bankruptcy case. In addition to the terms contained in the Court Approved Retention Agreement (CARA) it is our policy to confirm in writing how and when the Firm's fees and expenses will be paid. If there are any terms contained in this document that are in conflict with CARA, those terms are void.

Aside from any initial retainer that you pay the Firm, you will be required to pay the Firm's fees and expenses through the Chapter 13 plan after it is approved by the Bankruptcy Court. Each month, you will pay the Trustee the amount stated in your Chapter 13 plan. The Trustee will then disburse that money out according to the provisions of your plan to the Firm and other creditors.

The model Chapter 13 plan gives fourth priority to attorneys' fees, after the Trustee's fees, current mortgage payments, and payments to secured creditors listed in Section E, Paragraph 3.1 (for example, payments due to lenders on a loan to purchase a car, furniture, appliance or other item of personal property). The Firm intends to alter this priority scheme by modifying the model Chapter 13 plan to provide for payment of the Firm's attorney's fees and costs before any payments are made to your other creditors. That means that the money you send to the Trustee each month will first be paid to the Firm and may minimally pay the claims of your other creditors until the Firm's fees and expenses are paid in full. Such claims of other creditors include your car note, other financed personal property, parking tickets, taxes, and any claims of other creditors that may be included in your plan.

Aside from the Firm's commitment to perform any and all work reasonably necessary to represent you in this bankruptcy case without requiring you to pay a substantial amount of the fees and expenses up front, there is no benefit to you from this priority treatment of the Firm's fees and expenses. Furthermore, this arrangement presents certain risks. In the event that your case is dismissed before completion of the plan or if you decide to convert your case to a case under Chapter 7, it is likely that the Firm's attorneys' fees will have been paid while little of your other debts are paid.

In addition, there is the possibility that a creditor or the Trustee may object to the Firm being paid under this altered priority arrangement. In the event of such an objection, the Firm may lower that amount that the Firm will receive each month and increase the monthly payment to such creditor in order to resolve the objection. However, creditors may seek to recover

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THE SEMRAD LAW FIRM

Attorneys & Counselors at Law
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Chicago, IL 60603
(312) 913-0625

additional attorneys' fees as a result of any such objection and you may be required to pay the creditors' additional attorneys' fees over time through the Chapter 13 Plan.

If you do not wish to pay the Firm's attorneys' fees and expenses ahead of your creditors as set forth above, you have the following options:

- a. You can to pay the Firm an upfront retainer of \$1,500 prior to filing your case and elect for the plan to pay your car note (and/or other claims secured by personal property) and mortgage arrears in equal set monthly payments along with the Firm's fees and expenses; or
- b. You can seek representation by another firm under a different payment arrangement.

Please carefully review this letter. If the terms are not consistent with your understanding of our engagement in any respect or if you have any questions concerning the same, please notify us promptly. You can also seek advice from other counsel regarding your rights under this arrangement. Firm policy and a prior court order require that we receive confirmation of your acceptance of these terms in the form of your signature at the bottom of this letter. Please return the signed copy to the Firm as soon as possible.

Very Truly Yours,

THE SEMRAD LAW FIRM LLC



One of its Attorneys

Accepted:



Debtor 1 Kierra Brown Case number (if known)
First Name Middle Name Last Name

Part 6: Answer These Questions for Reporting Purposes

16. What kind of debts do you have?

16a. Are your debts primarily consumer debts? *Consumer debts* are defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(8) as "incurred by an individual primarily for a personal, family, or household purpose."

- ☐ No. Go to line 16b.
☒ Yes. Go to line 17.

16b. Are your debts primarily business debts? *Business debts* are debts that you incurred to obtain money for a business or investment or through the operation of the business or investment.

- ☐ No. Go to line 16c.
☐ Yes. Go to line 17.

16c. State the type of debts you owe that are not consumer debts or business debts.

17. Are you filing under Chapter 7?

☒ No. I am not filing under Chapter 7. Go to line 18.

☐ Yes. I am filing under Chapter 7. Do you estimate that after any exempt property is excluded and administrative expenses are paid that funds will be available to distribute to unsecured creditors?

- ☐ No.
☐ Yes.

Do you estimate that after any exempt property is excluded and administrative expenses are paid that funds will be available for distribution to unsecured creditors?

18. How many creditors do you estimate that you owe?

- | | | |
|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1-49 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1,000-5,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> 25,001-50,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 50-99 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5,001-10,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> 50,001-100,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 100-199 | <input type="checkbox"/> 10,001-25,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> More than 100,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 200-999 | | |

19. How much do you estimate your assets to be worth?

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$0-\$50,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000,001-\$10 million | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500,000,001-\$1 billion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50,001-\$100,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000,001-\$50 million | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000,000,001-\$10 billion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100,001-\$500,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50,000,001-\$100 million | <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000,000,001-\$50 billion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500,001-\$1 million | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100,000,001-\$500 million | <input type="checkbox"/> More than \$50 billion |

20. How much do you estimate your liabilities to be?

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$0-\$50,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000,001-\$10 million | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500,000,001-\$1 billion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50,001-\$100,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000,001-\$50 million | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000,000,001-\$10 billion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100,001-\$500,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50,000,001-\$100 million | <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000,000,001-\$50 billion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500,001-\$1 million | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100,000,001-\$500 million | <input type="checkbox"/> More than \$50 billion |

Part 7: Sign Below

For you

I have examined this petition, and I declare under penalty of perjury that the information provided is true and correct.

If I have chosen to file under Chapter 7, I am aware that I may proceed, if eligible, under Chapter 7, 11, 12, or 13 of title 11, United States Code. I understand the relief available under each chapter, and I choose to proceed under Chapter 7.

If no attorney represents me and I did not pay or agree to pay someone who is not an attorney to help me fill out this document, I have obtained and read the notice required by 11 U.S.C. § 342(b).

I request relief in accordance with the chapter of title 11, United States Code, specified in this petition.

I understand making a false statement, concealing property, or obtaining money or property by fraud in connection with a bankruptcy case can result in fines up to \$250,000, or imprisonment for up to 20 years, or both. 18 U.S.C. §§ 152, 1341, 1519, and 3571.

x

/s/ Kierra Brown

Signature of Debtor 1

Executed on 4/10/2018

MM / DD / YYYY

x

Signature of Debtor 2

Executed on

MM / DD / YYYY